

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 SSM-05
H-02 SIG-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
USIA-15 SP-02 /082 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

-----061206Z 043972 /45

R 041948Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
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AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 101356

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 3

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 3, 1977:

Q. THERE IS A REPORT OUT OF JERUSALEM SAYING THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE WILL BE DELAYED. HAS IT BEEN DENIED IT WAS JUNE?

A. I THINK THAT IS INTERESTING SPECULATION, BUT SINCE THERE WASN'T ANY TRIP SET IN JUNE AS A MATTER OF CERTAINTY, IT'S DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW IT COULD HAVE BEEN POSTPONED FROM JUNE.

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Q. LET'S SAY -- IS JUNE OUT OR NOT?

A. A BETTER QUESTION IS, IS JUNE IN? I MEAN, THE FACT IS, THERE IS NO TRIP SET YET. HE HAS, OBVIOUSLY, INDICATED THAT HE BELIEVES HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT THERE IS NO TRIP SET YET.

Q. LAST WEEK AMBASSADOR YOUNG APPEARED BEFORE A GROUP IN NEW YORK CALLED THE ASSOCIATION FOR A BETTER NEW YORK, AND AMONG OTHER THINGS HE SAID AT SOME POINT THE U.S. MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY TO FORMULATE ITS OWN PROPOSALS CONCERNING A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND PUT IT ON THE TABLE. IS THIS AN OPTION?

A. I THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN DIRECTLY TO THIS QUESTION. AND WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID IS THAT, (1) WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT EVERYONE IN THE AREA HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR PEACE IN THE AREA; (2) THE

BASIC DECISIONS ABOUT IT HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA, THE PARTIES IN THE AREA; AND (3) WE ARE INTERESTED AND WILLING TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO FACILITATE A SETTLEMENT, BUT THE IDEA OF IMPOSING A SETTLEMENT IS NOWHERE ON THE POLICY BURNER.

Q. WELL, THEY SEEMED TO BE TALKING ABOUT THE TIME AFTER ALL THIS PROCESS THAT YOU HAVE DESCRIBED HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED.

A. YOU'RE ASKING ME TO SPECULATE ON SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF EVERYTHING ELSE IS EXHAUSTED OR --

Q. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY SPECULATED ON THAT.

A. WELL, THAT'S GOOD. AND HE WILL SPECULATE AND I WON'T. (LAUGHTER). I MEAN IN THIS CASE.
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Q. ON ANOTHER MATTER THERE, HE SAID THOUGH HE OPPOSES STILL, HE FEELS THAT WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE ROOTS, THE ALIENATION AND ASPIRATION THAT DRIVE PEOPLE TO TERROR. IS THIS ACCURATELY ALSO THE POSITION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. I THINK THE POSITION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON TERRORISM AND TERRORISTS AND THE POLICY OF THIS GOVERNMENT ARE WELL-KNOWN. AND I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS OR WHAT SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN A FAIRLY PHILOSOPHIC BASIS INSOFAR AS AMERICAN POLICY IS CONCERNED. I DON'T THINK THAT YOU REALLY HAVE TO QUESTION ME ON WHAT AMERICAN POLICY IS ABOUT TERRORISTS AND TERRORISM.

Q. IN HIS INTERVIEW TO TWO EUROPEAN TV STATIONS YESTERDAY, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IF HE SAW CLEARLY A FAIR AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO APPLY THE FULL STRENGTH OF THE UNITED STATES AND

THE FULL PERSUASIVE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE SIDES TO AGREE TO THAT SOLUTION. DOES THIS FALL SHORT OF IMPOSING AN AMERICAN PLAN? WHAT KIND OF PERSUASION CAN THE UNITED STATES, SAY, APPLY TO SYRIA?

A. WELL, TO ANSWER YOUR FIRST QUESTION, YES.

THE ANSWER TO YOUR SECOND QUESTION IS: I'M REALLY NOT PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT WE ARE, OBVIOUSLY -- HAVE BEEN, ARE AND WILL BE -- MEETING WITH A NUMBER OF THE LEADERS IN THE

AREA. AND INsofar AS WHAT ROLE WE CAN PLAY IN FACILITATING A MIDDLE EASTERN SETTLEMENT, THAT QUESTION REMAINS STILL FOR THE FUTURE, AND I'M NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ABOUT IT.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY'S INTENTION STILL TO VISIT THE
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MIDDLE EAST IN WHAT USED TO BE CALLED THE NEXT PHASE,
PHASE III, OF THIS PROCESS?

A. I THINK I SAID EARLIER THAT THERE IS AT LEAST A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT HE WILL GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST AT SOME POINT. BUT WHEN THAT IS, YOU KNOW, IS JUST SIMPLY UP IN AIR.

Q. WILL THE NEXT ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BE INVITED IN WASHINGTON BEFORE MR. VANCE DECIDES TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES?

A. I KNOW OF NO PLANS FOR THAT. I WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, WANT TO GIVE THAT ANSWER AS MEANING THAT THE SPOKESMAN IS TELLING YOU IT WON'T HAPPEN. I JUST KNOW OF NO PLANS FOR IT.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE MAY 2 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. HAS THE U.S. RECEIVED ANY REQUEST FOR THE TRANSFER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM EGYPT TO ZAIRE?

A. NO.

Q. HAVE WE BEEN APPROACHED BY EGYPT FOR F-5'S TO REINFORCE PRESIDENT SADAT'S OPERATION IN ZAIRE?

A. --PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SAID SEVERAL TIMES PUBLICLY THAT HE DESIRES F-5'S FROM THE UNITED STATES.

--HE HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY F-5'S FOR USE IN ZAIRE.

VANCE

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